GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5833
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
EXPORT OF SPURIOUS DRUGS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of spurious drugs being exported from India to African Countries;

(b) whether recently a consignment ready to be exported to African countries have been detected and caught near Mumbai in Ambarnath;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Ministry of Chemical & Fertilisers, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Commerce and Industry have carried out doing any coordination and a joint action in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The news about detection and catching of spurious Drugs consignment appeared inthe local Newspapers namely Navakal, Marathi daily on 6-2-2003. As per the news, the Police under the instruction of Food & Drugs Authorities (FDA) was given to understand that in MIDC Ambernath, Maharashtra, M/s. Zo Pharma indulged in the business of spurious drugsOn keeping track of the consignments received by this firm they found out that spurious material was being supplied to them from `OM SAI` Warehouse situated at Bivandi-Kashali. The truck and tempo meant to be delivered to the Zo Pharma consisted of duplicates of Ildeen (Pfizer), Sypracasin (Bayer), Pamadol (Smithklineglaxo), Superaptic (Unigrass) Chemokleen (Park Devis) Gentil (Rosh) Cratex (Zanika) and Viagra (Pfizer). The Newspaper report is silent about the destination of this consignment. However, the above mentioned news has not appeared in any of the English Newspapers. The FDA is now pursuing the case with CID Branch.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The High Commission of India, Nigeria informed that the National Agency for Food and Drugs Control, Nigeria has vide a Public Notice black listed some Indian companies for producing fake and substandard drugs and importing them into Nigeria The matter regarding export of fake and counterfeit drugs from India to Africa was one of the main issues covered in the India-Africa Health Summit, held during September 26 - 29, 2001 in Mumbai. The Ministries of Commerce & Industry and Health & Family Welfare, State Government of Maharashtra and FICCI were some of the main participants in the said summit.

It was clarified by the Drugs Controller that in general, the drug administration lays down quality specifications of individual products or Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). All the units manufacturing drugs, for any purpose whether for domestic consumption or for exports, have to adhere to strict standards at every stage as laid down by the respective State Governments. Due to India`s enormous size and diversity, the Central Government only lays down certain ground rules and makes the State Governments the sole implementing authority, on behalf of the Central Government. The Maharashtra State Government further advised African Countries to prescribe stricter rules regarding import of drugs. It was also clarified that the buyer also should make sure that fake drugs are kept out of the country by introducing suitable specifications in govt. tenders.